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 PATENT, TRADEMARK, COPYRIGHT  
 AND UNFAIR COMPETITION LAW  
 AND RELATED LITIGATION

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 TRUMAN A. HERRON 1935-1978  
 EDWARD B. EVANS 1838-1971

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May 19, 2004

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## FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

To: Examiner Cuong H. Nguyen  
 Mail Stop AMENDMENT  
 Commissioner for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Fax: 703-872-9306

Enclosures:  
 Fax Cover Sheet containing Certificate of  
 Facsimile Transmission (1 page)  
 Response to Restriction Requirement  
 containing Certificate of Facsimile  
 Transmission (2 pages)

From: Douglas A. Scholer  
 Reg. No. 52,197

Re: US Application  
 Serial No.: 09/827,803  
 Filed: April 6, 2001  
 Applicant: Efrain Torres et al.  
 Art Unit: 3625  
 Confirmation No.: 6869  
 Our Ref.: HILB-720  
 Pages: 3 (including cover sheet)

MESSAGE/COMMENTS  
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*Judith L. Volk*  
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*May 19, 2004*  
 Date

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Confirmation No. 6869

PATENT

Judith L. Volk May 19, 2004  
Judith L. Volk Date

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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Efrain Torres et al. Art Unit: 3625  
 Serial No.: 09/827,803 Examiner: Cuong H. Nguyen  
 Filed: April 6, 2001 Atty. Docket No.: HILB/720  
 For: SYSTEM AND METHOD OF PLANNING A FUNERAL

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop AMENDMENT  
 Commissioner for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This paper is submitted to reply to the Office Action dated April 19, 2004, within the one-month period for response. In the Office Action, the Examiner subjected claims 1-69 to restriction, and more particularly, grouped the claims as follows:

Group I (Claims 1-29, and 59-66 drawn to computer-implemented method for creating an online funeral plan);

Group II (Claims 30-58, and 67-68 drawn to a very general apparatus (based on the claimed preamble) having a memory, a database, and a computer program); and

Group III (Claim 69 drawn to a computer-implemented method for creating an online plan/directory that adheres to a pre-determined "theme"/or surfing

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 Client Docket: NI-11223  
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the Internet to select a specific style/environment (e.g., surfing the web to search for songs from a particular artist: Bon Jovi).

Applicants elect Group I (claims 1-29, and 59-66) with traverse. Applicants respectfully disagree that Groups I, II, and III are patentably distinct, and therefore, traverse the election requirement. Applicants assert a relationship is disclosed between Groups I, II, and III for the reasons discussed and advanced as follows:

As recited in the claims and supported in the specification, the invention includes a system for arranging and funding a funeral or other memorial service. The system receives and uses user input requesting information associated with funeral products, services, and homes. The system associates the user input with a budgetary, profile, home locator, or step-based parameter. Information associated with the parameter is retrieved for inclusion within a funeral plan. The claims of Groups I, II, and III recite similar such functionality, among other common features. As dictated by these common features, all embodiments of the invention claimed in Groups I, II, and III rely on similar modes of operation, function, and affect.

Early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested upon receipt and entry of this Amendment.

If there are any questions regarding this paper, or which might otherwise further this case onto allowance, please contact the undersigned at (513) 241-2324. Moreover, if any other charges or credits are necessary to complete this communication, please apply them to Deposit Account 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

5/19/04  
Date

  
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